

Remarks

Claims 1-10 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have been amended to more particularly point out that the pressing member extends along the length of the conveying roller shaft and to fix obvious errors. New claims 7-10 have been added to more particularly point out that at least one force providing member is installed on the pressing member, that the shaft moves in equilibrium and that the pressing member is supported by a fulcrum portion. Currently amended claims 1, 2 and 4-6 and new claims 7-10 are at least supported by Figs. 1, 10-12 and specification paragraphs [0059], [0067] and [0069]. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation "its several positions" in lines 4-5 of claim 1 and that it is not understood what is meant by the recitation "almost not deformed" in line 3 of claim 2. In view of the Examiner's comments, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 to clarify this language.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6, as amended, and new claims 7-10 are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,241,665 (Erk). The Examiner asserts that Erk discloses each and every element of the claims. The rejection of claim 1, as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Erk discloses a sheet conveying mechanism for cut sheets or packs of such sheets of paper capable of braking the sheets, which come from a high speed machine, to a speed suitable for some cooperating mechanism. The sheet conveying mechanism includes transport rollers 1, 2 mounted on shafts 4, 5, respectively. For timed adjustment of the spacing between the shafts 4, 5, the first shaft 4 is *supported at its ends* in two rigidly connected bell cranks which consist of two lever arms 9, 10 that are connected by a fulcrum 11 (col. 2, lns. 16-20). A cam disc 12

contacts a sensing roller 14 which pivots on a lever 15 about a fixed fulcrum 16 and transfers its movement to the second lever arm 10 over an adjustable screw 17.

The present invention is directed to a medium conveying apparatus which can stabilize a medium, such as paper, and convey it by a sufficient conveying force to prevent the medium from being obliquely conveyed. As shown in Figs. 1 and 10-12, the medium conveying apparatus includes upper 65 and lower 66 rollers mounted on upper 63 and lower 64 conveying shafts, respectively. A tension plate 75, which is supported by side frames 12, 13 of the medium conveying apparatus, acts as a pressing member and is supported to swing freely around each fulcrum portion 74 as a center. A plurality of tension springs 78 urge the tension plate 75 to press the upper shaft 63 via guide pieces 76, thereby pressing the upper roller 65 toward the lower roller 66 by a predetermined pressing force. This structure prevents the occurrence of a variation in the conveying forces on the upper conveying shaft 63 and avoids the occurrence of the oblique movement of a sheet 31 fed through the medium conveying apparatus.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

a pressing member which extends along a length of said shaft and presses said shaft at three or more positions for making said shaft approach a conveying path of the medium; wherein said pressing member causes said shaft to leave in parallel with said conveying path when said shaft is made to leave said conveying path by said medium.

Erk does not disclose that the pressing member, or first lever arm 9, extends along a length of the shaft and presses the shaft at three or more positions, as claimed in the present application. The pressing member, or first lever arm 9 (one at each end of the shaft), disclosed by Erk contacts the conveying roller shaft, or shaft 4, only at its ends (col 2, lns 16-20) and does not extend along the length of the shaft. Further, the pressing member, or first lever arm 9, disclosed by Erk does not cause the shaft to leave in parallel with the conveying path when the shaft is made to leave the conveying path by the paper. There is no disclosure or teaching in Erk that the pressing member, or first lever arm 9, accomplishes such a result.

Erk fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1, as amended. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Erk, and requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) be withdrawn. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-10, which are dependent upon claim 1, are not anticipated by Erk for the same reasons discussed

above for claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1-10, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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